



Ranch Fire Information Update October 26th, 2007 (am)

Angeles NF Fire Info: 626-821-6700
Los Padres NF Fire Info: 805-961-5770



South Whittaker Peak in the Ranch Fire area [photo by Alxs West]

Fire Status. Since the winds have calmed, significant progress has been made in containing the 58,396 acre Ranch Fire. It is now considered 87% contained and fire managers are planning for full containment on Tuesday, October 30. The estimated control date has been extended by 5 days to allow for mopping up in inaccessible areas of low threat. If everything goes according to plan, the Ranch Fire should be fully controlled on November 5. Management responsibilities will transition from California Interagency Incident Management Team 3 (Jeanne Pincha-Tulley, Incident Commander) to the Angeles National Forest on Saturday, October 27 at 6pm.

Activity Today. Today, crews will continue to construct fire line and mop up hot spots in the south western finger of the Ranch Fire.

Yesterday, crews were busy hand constructing fire line in the western part of the fire area. Most of the smoke and heat is located in a western 'finger' of the fire northeast of the town of Fillmore. A NASA unmanned aerial system infrared flight was flown and supported this observation.

Forest Closures. As a result of extreme fire activity, the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests have implemented forest wide closures. Please call the Los Padres National Forest 805-961-5770 or the Angeles National Forest 626-821-6700 for additional information.

Evacuations. All evacuations from the Ranch Fire within Los Angeles and Ventura Counties have been lifted. Residents are now allowed back into their neighborhoods but are urged to remain cautious and should keep informed about current conditions. The fire has not crossed highway 126 nor has it progressed any closer to the communities of Piru and Fillmore.

The Incident Command Post is located at Castaic Park. The fire is under the command of California Interagency Incident Management Team 3, Jeanne Pincha-Tulley commanding.

History. The Ranch Fire started October 20th at 9:42 pm near Townsend Peak, southwest of Templin Highway and Interstate 5, in the Angeles National Forest.

Fire Facts. There are 492 people assigned to the fire along with 9 fire engines, 6 dozers, 12 water tenders, 9 twenty-person hand crews and 3 helicopters.

Over the last ten years, 2,324 fires have burned a total of 201,914 acres on the Angeles NF; some areas, mostly along roadsides, have burned multiple times in the past decade.

Fire Danger Levels (FDLs) on the Angeles NF are based on environmental conditions such as weather and fuel moisture in vegetation and on human factors such as availability of firefighting resources and national forest visitation (for example, busy holiday weekends increase the chances of a human-caused fire.)

Basic Information

Incident Type	Wildland Fire
Cause	Under Investigation
Date of Origin	10/20/2007 at 2142 hrs.
Location	6 miles north of Castaic CA
Incident Commander	Jeanne Pincha - Tulley

Current Situation

Total Personnel	492
Size	58,396 acres
Percent Contained	87%
Estimated Containment Date	10/31/2007 at hrs.
Fuels Involved	The fire is burning in heavy chaparral and oak woodland.
Fire Behavior	Due to successful suppression efforts, fire spread was limited in most locations and there was minimal fire activity in the unburned fuel islands south of the Day Fire.
Significant Events	Mop up and patrol the existing firelines.

Outlook

Planned Actions	Crews will complete line construction of the West perimeter. Mop up and patrol will continue on the fire.
Projected Movement	No fire movement anticipated.
Growth Potential	Due to the decreased wind speed, and rising relative humidity, the growth potential is considered to be low.
Terrain Difficulty	The difficulty of the terrain is extreme, due to steep slopes and inaccessible terrain.
Remarks	The prospects for containment of the fire in the near term are very promising. Resources are being released for use on other fires in the region.

For more information

- Ranch Fire Inciweb (<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1002/>)
- Ventura County Fire Department (<http://fire.countyofventura.org/>)
- Angeles National Forest (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/>)